

The rest of the family can certainly imagine the horror that the majority of victims felt in the last few moments as they bobbed and froze painfully to death. BUT all of this is not what I really choose to write about here. I write of the Titanic as a symbol of our tiny fragile planet and it's seven billion plus inhabitants as it travels endlessly along its lonely byway in our solar system.

Repeated, time and again in the accounts of Titanic survivors, and portrayed so well in Cameron's movie, was the abhorrent behaviour of those weak in character, those whom we all came to despise as we grew to be shocked by their selfish behaviour. We sat disapproving and dumbfounded to watch as third class and steerage passengers- children, women and men, were kept locked below decks even as the icy water crept above their last terrified, gasping breaths. We were ashamed at the inhumanity as those in power, made a choice that these people's lives were less worth saving. We all condemned such 'classism' because we are decent people who would never stand for such merciless conduct for we know our ever so modest **Grandma Maggie** roots.

Grandma Maggie

Uncle John Murray's simple yet telling **1976** anecdote about **Grandma Read** as we stood outside the one room stone school house in the Highlands, puts us in our historic social place.

"**Maggie** had been later than usual attending to chores and as she was always one to be early for school, she came running down the hill over there beyond the road. At the bottom, as she skipped on a rock over that creek she slipped and fell soiling her school frock. She quickly ran back up the hill to home and changed into her only other good clothing, her church dress. That was the only time Maggie ever stepped through the classroom door at the last clang of the bell."

Two dresses! No wonder she lived merrily and so modestly through her years in Canada. See **Grandma's Closet Was... p.4**

We all know our humble family roots and we realize we might very well have been among those who died in steerage, thus we justly condemn those accurate movie visions. We, each and every **Read, Rodwell, Hall, MacLeod, Doré, Wang** sit sickened to watch as the useless twit, Rose's posh beau, runs panic stricken from lifeboat to lifeboat during orders for "1st class women and children only". We cringe as he begs, and bribes until he procures a seat, slinks down and quivers his pathetic life towards survival. We silently boo the cad for what he is - a dastardly, despicable coward.

Of course none of us can ever really know what we would do in like circumstances but the right and moral hero in us deplores his behaviour as not ever being our own. We aspire to greater courage. The natural law of "children before women before men" seems right. We deplore a class system such as his as immoral.

With glistening eyes our hearts go out to the elder couple who wisely bow to their fate, climb into their tiny bed, snuggle together in their greatcoats and share a final long kiss as they succumb to the life taking frigid water. As sad as it is we accept it because sacrifice of the aged before youth just makes sense.

We all solidly know what is **good and moral, just and proper** in behaviour in the face of looming human tragedy. We aspire to be strong, courageous and morally good if ever we confront a titanic situation in our own lives. We squirm in our own seats as those safe & dry in life-boats, beat off others in the water trying so desperately to survive and we wonder what we ourselves would choose to do in such a disconcerting situation.

My wonderful, intelligent, caring family...

the **Titanic** is here today. We are aboard her and she is well on her way towards sinking. Only a small portion of her passengers may survive. Each and every one of **us in first class** must make decisions quickly, choices that will stay with us for an eternity... for when every one of us dies tomorrow or year's from now, we will either dwell painfully forever in those last few moments on how we handled our life in light of ALL those aboard our lonely ship in space, or else we will drift peacefully away knowing we really tried hard to do our duty, to do our best, to do our small part to reflect a morally good and right lifestyle towards the rest of our fellow passengers aboard this good ship earth.

In the next tragic decades, the W.H.O. estimates conservatively that many many dozens of millions will die of starvation, lack of potable water, and painful diseases. In the following few decades, mass migration from Central Africa, parts of India, thousands of "sinking" Malaysian islands, central Russia, Northern China and Australia (up to half her population) will become a survival reality that would stress the remaining, glacial and polar ice melt, shrinking land-base and urban centres beyond limits.

If we in the capitalist consumer society of the North- the **USA, Canada** and other **G8** countries especially, continue our globally destructive **first class** consumer behaviour, we will be the cause, first, of many hundreds of millions of agonizing steerage class deaths, **then those of our very own offspring**. If the human race manages to peak at 8 or 9 billion - mother Gaia will reduce that number through means that will make the plagues of Rome, China and Europe look like a bad cold. The "Spanish" influenza of the early 1900's will seem like a sore throat.

All of us in the **R,R,H,MacL,D&W** family are aware of these facts, yet we continue day by day, week by week to passively allow our society to be addicted to a consumer lifestyle which makes the posh behaviour on the **Titanic** look comparatively mild. What hypocrites we all are as we watch tragic events of starvation, massive deaths by flooding and landslides, hurricanes, climatic disruption and environmental degradation unfold on our flat-screen plasma TVs using four times as much global warming electricity as CRT sets. We see more clearly in HDTV and yet we deny our own country and society's behaviour. We do nothing about it. We hold not our governments accountable.

I love our family. For the most part I love much about our country, but none of us can nor should stand for her behaviour in this global society of ours any longer. **That 1st Class behaviour is as shameful as any of the worst on the Titanic and this on a global scale involving billions of lives not a few thousand.**

I'm here in Cuba pondering a better, fairer system for Canada; I'm here to see how socialism works and where the challenges lie; to study political systems, read vociferously, think and write. I'm here to see where Cuba sets an example and where she appears to fall down. She is far from perfect. The **40** year strangle hold by the **US** during this **50** year young country's life has seen to that, and YET she scores far higher in the **Gini Coefficient** than Canada, the USA, Britain and all other G8 countries.

I'm not crying in the wilderness here, for no one ever listens there. I'm getting involved with University activists and others. The material on my website is little by little being disseminated (though some in my own family choose to ignore it).

I am not preaching from a pulpit, no one seems to be listening there these days either, unless they are **Muslim**. I am neither raving nor lunatic. I myself am at peace of mind with my own footprint on mother Gaia. **con't >>> p.3**

I'm suggesting each and every ONE in our family try to do a number of things this new year 2007.

1. Consume significantly less energy than last year. Keep home temperature at 17*, walk, use transit more, drive less, etc.
 2. Return closer to the modest lifestyle roots which were the strong historically healthy seed of our families.
 3. Condemn any and all environmentally and globally selfish behaviour within ourselves, others, Canada and Britain.
 4. Judge severely our lifestyle in all this.
 5. Review www.geocities.com/canada_V2/journalism
 6. Pressure our government to abandon NAFTA... life will be only slightly harder but our conscience will be much clearer.
 7. Encourage our friends and associates all to do likewise.
 8. Read *Cuba - A Revolution in Motion* by Isaac Saney, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, 2002.
 9. Watch Cameron's *The Titanic* again... think, cry and commit.
 10. Unconditionally love one another "thicker than water" blah, blah, no matter how weak we are in succeeding with all'v this.
 11. Say "prayers" for those, including those in our family who will suffer needlessly due to our consumer society.
 12. Move closer towards PEACE within ourselves and PEACE upon our planet if we succeed in most/much of the above.
- *Unless over 80 years or **Cath**- then space-heat as needed.

Uncle Alf 1 – Lord of Death 0

I seldom miss a trip to Victoria, BC, without at least walking by **Craigdarrach** "Castle" on the way to or from Beacon Hill to Oakbay. I can never remember which spelling variation of our brother **Derek's** name it is! I just add a few letters and a 'ch' to 'gael-i-size' it. Regardless, to have one's name attached to such a monument to avarice, greed, and inhumanity is surely a legacy to be ashamed of. It's like if **Jesus ha Nostra** came back to witness what Christians have done in blaspheming his name and ideas he'd... OH! I don't know! Probably crucify himself. Most good BC historians quote minuscule dollar amounts saved in shoring-timber vs lives lost by **Craig and Derach's** mine owning father. One I read gave the equivalent of a week's wages - \$2.50 per life lost in providing the absolute minimum of timber. He saved million's shoring up his own bank account. I admit I've been inside the castle many times since I first went there as a Queen's Scout during **Ric's** and my investiture with Left. Gov. George Pearks, Parks, Perks (who cares) when I was 15. To this day, as those who know me understand, I've a penchant for well crafted, hand rubbed wood as I appreciate the craftsmanship. **Thms** will recall my lingering near the walls of **Cassa Loma**, in Toronto. He sometimes gave me curious looks as I contemplated how much craftsmanship had gone into woodworking in numerous locations across our huge country. I think it was the leaning forward to smell the scent that he was curious about. Yet it has something to do with the fact I can never help empathizing with the sweat and blood that has gone into the craftsmanship and perhaps I lean in close sensing, hoping the wood might ooze deep dark sangré and tell me a tale of cheap labour and class differences.

Every time I pass a downtown street sign with the name **Dunsmuir**, I think they should be printed in that deep blood red "dripping" FONT. But then that might be an offense to the Chinatown community who revere this colour.

Our **Kirkham** family were lucky to escape their time in the coal mines of VanIsle alive. At least **Uncle Alf** was. Keep in mind that they were traditional British coaliers from England and this was business as usual. **Uncle Alf** managed to translate the minimalist wood construction techniques he witnessed, and sometimes participated in, into the fastest one-way ticket out of there and into a decent and obviously much safer living away from the mines in the less risque building trades. I'm guessing he felt most comfortable as far from those Nanaimo coal mines as he could get. It is obvious as a young man he had been able to calculate the simple deficit mathematics of load tonnage to timber weight.

I'm guessing nothing **Uncle Alf** ever built, school, petro-station, home or any other edifice will ever collapse even in a strong earthquake and that is something our family all can be so very proud of. The box on side **2256** is just a solid sample if you ever looked closely. As abashed as he is with it, I always try to only hug him strong and short when I see him (nicely symbolic that).

Where I ask you, is the **Kirkham** street sign in my province? **Uncle Alf** will no doubt never have a street in BC named after him. And there is no **Kirkham** street in Nanaimo. Why? (I'm not a sweet person. I do love pumpkin pie, but I have to admit, once or thrice a year a fresh home made bitter chocolate Nanaimo bar is wonderful), but I digress from the social commentary here.

Alf Kirkham - classy guy versus "Lord" **Dunsmuir** of Death. Ironic that **Dunsmuir** was at the top of **Canada's** social class but certainly we know now, in humanity, he had none. And yet, we **first class** Canadians snug in our well built Vancouver homes, sipping our a.m. coffee are only a century removed from >>>p.4



Certificate re El Congo from Fidel to Dr.Raphael (mi papa de Casa)

300,000 + excited happy people



The youthful majority assembled at 7 a.m. and marched while the festivities were carried on national TV all day long.

Dunsmuir's lifestyle. We actually live better than he or Henry VIII did because we too have our cheap ill-treated labour, they are just a lot farther and out of mind away than olde Nanaimo. •

Uncle "The Genuine" Alf and Me

I've always loved that wiry mighty mite of a guy. Apres school when I was a young-un, he and Uncle Jim let me follow them around. "Be careful! Just watch! Never ask! Do what you're told! You WILL learn." Helping them then as well as years of shadowing and assisting GrumpaDad likewise gave me knowledge of concrete forming, framing, beaming, rafting, sheathing, plumbing, wiring, ducting, sheet-rocking, mudding, finishing and painting- though I was always happy to leave any painting to Cath. It is to these two gentlemen that I, a backwoodsman give much thanks for having the ability like Uncle Brian, to build completely from scratch something like the addition onto 44B Ladner, most of it in two months.

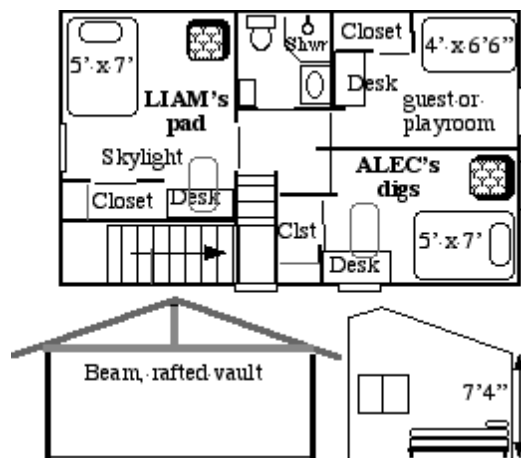
What say we blow the roof of 2224 West 14th one summer. **Heads up** for the next half decade! **Liam & Alec** will no-doubt end up 185 cm plus and will need taller beds.

Hold on to 2224. Never sell.

Location ! Location !! Location !!!

Tennyson, Kitsilano, Ubysey

Fiat Lux y Tuum Est



We can have an old fashioned family barn/roof raising, slot in three bedrooms and another bathroom up there. You'll not have to pay anything for the three week BriLance* course. Just show up, follow, watch, help and you "will" learn. In fact there may be full pay equivalent to the 1960s 5¢ / hr or was that per tobacco tin full of pulled and straightened 2.25" to 3.5" nails. Where did all those sorting tins come from? Alf never smoked. Auntie Frankie or Mickey Shannon perhaps? *You in Brian? I am!

Thanks again Grumpa and Uncle "Bring me the turkey bag Carla Jo!" Or did he call her Carlotta Melissa after Great Grandma Goring? Or maybe that's what he called Grandma-herself. This is all pretty accurate except perhaps the "Carla/Carlotta" part. That guy has a nick-name for everybody- "Lance Corporal, Heather Bell, Holly Hock, neighbour Vonny, Billy Boy." Did HE Alfred the Great ever have a nick name? Did you know that our Uncle Alf and the actor Lloyd Bridges went to different schools together? It's a fact! •

HeyZeusKristos now that I've done all this boasting I hope the grande addition on 44B Ladner, the porch we recently shored up at 2256 W14th or the bathroom floor and shower at 2566 W13th haven't fallen apart yet.

Grandma's Closet Was Two Feet Wide

My Grandma Read's closet was two feet wide. She had a four foot wide three drawer clothes bureau. That was all the space she needed to store her modest wardrobe and yet she always looked immaculate and sharp.

Now I'm not saying she was poor. In fact she and grandpa would have been considered folks of some means in their day. Why, they even had a car or two over the years, though I can't recall grandpa driving much. He preferred to walk and take the bus. The car came out for Sunday drives and other special occasions, I'll bet in this day and age grandpa wouldn't even own a car. People just lived far more modestly in those days. Nothing in excess is always a grand rule of thumb, for possessions as well.

Grandpa was a cobbler by trade as well as playing trombone in the Vancouver symphony and many other vaudeville and movie house gigs. Grandma's four pair's of shoes were always in flawless condition. Four you say!? Isn't that just a wee bit excessive? Well- there were her working in the house flats, a simple, white, four lace affair. There were her shiny black leather going to church and special occasions, three-quarter top, ten lace one inch heal, boot/shoes. She had an old pair of high top flat healed shoes to work in the garden and a pair of slip on rubber overshoes for rainy days. The last pair were her fancy, pale blue "pretty" shoes with a slightly tapered one inch heel and I think she only wore those for birthday parties and when having company over.

I can almost recall every one of the few frilly blouses, skirts and dresses that grandma owned over the years. When a new one showed up, I knew another had been worn beyond it's years and no doubt recycled into something else useful. I'm sure she made many of them herself. A favourite of hers, and mine and others I'm sure, for special occasions, was a pleated skirt in Lawrence family tartan, always worn with a finely crocheted blouse.

She had a pretty dress with tiny pastel flowers of pale green and blue. It was a favourite of mine too- for any day she wore that thin cotton dress I knew it was going to be a baking day. Pies or tarts and always warm fresh scones. She splurged on aprons and I think she always had three clean ones on hand, though she may have made them out of recycled fine flour sack cotton for all I knew.

I admit Gran kept two good woolen coats in the hall guest closet. One light and one long and heavier. She had a small closet in the basement as well where she and grandpa kept their round the house and yard work cloths. Gran had an old, white, heavy cotton, high collar jacket for colder leaf raking days and a lighter short sleeve jacket for hotter days with a pair of thin fabric, pull on sleeves for a garden planting day. She kept a well worn wide brimmed round woven hat that kept the sun and rain off her face. Gran was 84 when she passed beyond the veil, but she didn't look a day over 60. Though grandpa smoked a pipe occasionally and the odd cigar, tobacco never touched Gran's lips unless of course it might have been on grandpa's lips in a kiss.

Yes Grandma's closet was 24 inches wide because people lived merrily and unstressed without excess in those days. Grandma passed on in 1971. I miss her dearly and the planet misses her and her kind immensely. They tread more lightly on the planet in all those years than someone today of age of 25 with a 10 foot walk-in' closet and 25 pairs of shoes. •

Lance Read - A Canadian in Cuba - 2006 (@ Journalism)

Ric, Stella, Steve, Heath, Adrienne, Cath, Carla Jo, Brian, Derek & Jin

We certainly would be doing a huge disservice to our own children and their offspring if any, by continuing to ignore and thus passively promote the prolongation of the nihilistic lifestyle we have become addicted to. We do so if we continue to stay politically, socially uninvolved in stopping it and not insisting that those in power alter the route that **Canada, Britain** and our governments continue upon. While the only country that comes close to meeting or may well be meeting a commitment to **Kyoto** is guess who? yes **Cuba***, according to the UN Working Group on the Environment (check the internet), and Canada's **Harper** and Britain's government steer us away, because "now is not the time, it will be bad for the consumer economy". Our own kids may well ask, "when will be the right time, if not now? Perhaps when we've exterminated ALL the polar bears?" To do nothing is to actually condemn our own children, **Chris, Jez, Tee, Stu, Sean, Jus, Andrew, Thms, Spencer, Garrett, Liam and Alec** to a shorter life than the shorter one we have already produced for them through our own excessive lifestyle. What kind of parents would we be to continue to allow that to happen to our own kids?

FIAT LUX and **TUUM EST** always seemed good Latin to live by. **Fiat Lux** to me always meant we should let light into every nook and cranny corner of our lives- to banish racism, sexism and prejudice of any kind; to banish selfishness, to open our eyes widely. **Tuum Est** always meant- no one else can do it for you. There was always a sign posted in my "den", classroom or computer lab which reminded me how to live my life -

—————→ **"If not me, who?"** ←————
If not now, when?"

Status Quo

Of any of the Latin I have ever learned **that** was the one term that grew to repel me more than any other- **Status Quo**, for while I realize that on occasions, it can be positive, it most often is not because in effect it almost always leads to stagnation - in a bad way, as if there is a good form of stagnation.

I can only perhaps speak for the **Read, Rodwell, Hall, MacLeod** kids in saying that we had incredibly fortunate childhoods and family lives. Golly, gosh darn it, gee wiz - if there were ever families on which to base the desire to maintain the **Status Quo**, ours' might be blueprints. Oh sure, **Cath** and **I** had some issues with our significant parent; and in my eyes **Holly** always seemed to be somewhat overlooked and often played second fiddle when young but she moved away soon after high school, became a wonderful mostly self-made woman anyway; **Ric** might have done a little more if he'd been kicked like I was- he really was a great aquatic supervisor, the best instructor, even at the highest level, instructing and examining lifeguards and RLSS instructors, (I was always so proud when others in our field younger than me praised my big bro). On the whole for us all, maintaining the **Status Quo** was an unconscious goal. It is no longer possible or right for us or the next generation. It is not possible what with the energy/ environmental costs they now face paying. It is no longer possible while living like most young Canadians, renting- never owning while this wonderful phenomenon called globalization puts property into the hands of people whom often never set foot in Canada causing prices to skyrocket artificially out of reach. >>

* Please read two pages specifically, p.189 – 190, of **Cuba - A Revolution in Motion**, Dalhousie University prof **Isaac Saney**.

C, J, T, S, S, J, A, T, S, G, L & A very likely, on average, will not live nearly as long nor as well as their folks and grandfolks - the founders of what might have been in other times a family able to maintain the status quo. Nor will they live as long as their own parents. One or more, likely a few, will no doubt contract a deadly cancer like their dad/uncle **Debbie Downer**. Statistically, unlike him they will succumb to it- though with his specific "bad blood" genes they, like he, may buck the stats long enough to attend in place of **Grumpa, Alec Wang Read's** PHd Grad from UBC. Besides, he kinda think he may surpass many of you just to see if he can manage to fight for real social change before there is absolutely no chance for a decent life for our young Canadians. **R,S,S,H,A,C,CJ,B,J&D, the challenge is on!** Here's a looney wager that many a peer are toast before the old war horse kicks it.

BUT seriously! what is most important?

We hope and dream and pursue and fool ourselves that we can continue to support and promote our own and our country's now ignoble **Status Quo** lifestyle and pass it on to **CJTSSJATSGLA**.

I ask us one and all, "Why **R** we so stupid and selfish on this one point when that has never been our way as a family? That is not the **Read, Rodwell, Hall, MacLeod, Doré, Wang** way! It's the **Wong** way. We didn't mean any harm, or know we were killing the planet, but now we sooooo do. **End NAFTA Now.**

Abandon the Status Quo - Change Canada for our kids and theirs. Get politically, socially, active.

Ya' still have some quality time "for them"... I know I do! •



The Politics of Today

Some or all of you are as confused with my politics as I am with yours. We may ponder why, as relatively, we're cut from the same cloth. All of us, as I've outlined on **page 1**, have come through society with similar backgrounds, education, and on similar paths. Some of us feel comfortable straying at times along non-conventional paths, others consistently follow more well worn ones. However, at the **heart** of us all is a **social conscience**. This **Holiday** season as we attend our assemblies, whether Anglican Church as traditional for **Ric, Stella, and Stephen** or Centre For Peace for **Mom, Heath** and others, as we sit and commune with our higher power, or as we simply cocoon and enjoy friends and family at home- I urge us all to seek guidance and renewed energy to face the disconcerting challenges outlined herein and on **LR's** website. We might all reflect on the global affect of **Canadian** and **Brit** lifestyles and more importantly, our continued connection to the **United States of World Wide Terrorism**, Canada being far closer to it in trade. Perhaps we might ask ourselves if our Jesus/god or moral guide is merely or agonizingly horrified at our treatment of those we keep in their historic "that's just the way it is" social place elsewhere on his/her planet so that we may pig out on the abundance of their labours. •

Here's a relevant quote to dwell on, on HiS "birthday".

"Treat others as you would yourself!" JC of Nazareth

USA Terrorism for oil in Iraq to date:

Iraqi civilian casualties- 645,000+ vs

U.S. Military 3100+ Wahoo! A 110+ to 1 ratio !!!

Keep on Truckin' USofA

Quite simply! WE won the Lottery of Life being born into Canadian citizenship!

As far as I know, not one of us chose our parents. **Carla Jo** of course “was adopted” so we chose her- how cruel we were nudge wink **Jo**. None of us other than **Jin** chose our country- we fell forth from the womb into the most fabulously, fruitful, fortuitous circumstances by sheer luck, and reflecting further we see the fact that **“but for the grace of god or goddess, there in Africa, India or South America go I”**. Ponder further that but for an accident of nature, each of us is now the master and they, all our global brothers and sisters, OUR servants. It's immoral to accept the way it is. For several years now some of us have tried to “free” more and more of our “servants”- as in **Higher Grounds**, Bwy. and Vine, **fair trade** cocoa & coffee. We've eased up on gas- **Dread & others** drive less, **Grumpa** uses a small standard shift, **Stu** rides a motorcycle, **Heath** never did & we love her petite environmental footprint and must strive hard to emulate it.

Our **British** Empire started the age of globalization and serious exploitation of the planet while her sun never set and she had the big guns. Today it is **US** lead globalization which murderously maintains our **oil driven** lifestyle with even bigger guns. There has to be a tiny penis joke there somewhere... but it's not funny.

We each have a choice to do the right thing. The right thing is to actively implore our governments, both Canadian and British, to disconnect from the USA including the dissolution of NAFTA. Huge economic “sacrifices” must be made in order to assure there is a better planet in the future than the one we are currently speeding towards leaving for our **children and grandkids**.

Come on **Read, Rodwell, Hall, MacLeod, Doré, Wang** clan!

**We CAN do better!!
Tuum Est y Fiat Lux!!!**

Dear Santa, heer iz my poam,

Poler barz r gon now.
All thatz left r bonz
skaturd wydlee cros our land
thatz uzd to be ther hoam.

Theez barz kan padal sixtee mylzl
thatz alwuz been ther way
But mor than that is far too much
ther lyvz thay had to pay.

Thuh ice brok up quyt sudinly
az thaay chaysd along for seel
Poler barz thay went xtinct
just tryng to get a meel.

Thuh poler barz all left u know
just up an went awaay.
First dinusors an nouw thuh barz
Are tigerz nexd yu sayy?

Lance Read, Vancuvor, Canuduh 2006

Baysd on **Dinusors R Gon Now** by **Anonymous** •
see **Spanish** translashun (witch I prifer) on **last page**

p. 6

Canada changed it's flag

In **1967** we threw out our good old flag cobbled together from the **British Union Jack**, the one so proudly rallied around for a century; the flag under which so very many died at **Ypres, the Somme and Vimy Ridge**; the flag we never Ever let touch the ground- our flag called the **“Red Ensign”**. But we had come of age. We adopted a far simpler **Maple Leaf** with two red bars. Is there even one of us in our clan who has not experienced misty eyes seeing this flag raised over Gold Medal team or athlete or as shoulder flash on life saving **UN Peace Keepers**. The instant and overflowing recognition and gratitude I received crossing the border into Serbia from Bulgaria in '05 at the mere sight of a tiny distinct flag, half the area of a playing card, on the sides of my camper, justifies forever that decision to chuck away the outdated **British** hold over, for the symbol of a new autonomous Canada.

It is now time for a Modern **EQUITABLE** Efficient Government. It is **time to Grow-up** once again, to throw away an ineffective scheme we call the **British Parliamentary system**, (oxymoron).

Reviews by experts of the overall costs of running our government and wages for elected officials would shock us all- “the price tag of inefficiency”. If one was running a business as poorly as the **Canadian Parliament**, one would strip it's organization to the bone and redesign it from scratch. Our parliament remains for the most part as posh an old boy's club as any. The proof is in the **GST**, a short term tax meant to wipe out the debt. The **debt & tax remain**, the clock continues to climb.

Parliament will remain an old boy's club as long as our constitution continues to lamely state “everyone has the right to be a member therein” instead of “shall consist of wide ranging social representation”. It is law in Sweden that there is proportionally equitable representation of women and men. Austria's guarantees equal voice for a spectrum of ideologies, not just the right wing, something they became allergic to after **A.Hitler**. Representatives of Cuba's **FUE**, Federation of University Students are elected to the National Assembly as well. The voice of all Canadians will not be heard until it's law and “have a right to a free press” is changed to “all sides have an equal right to be heard in the press”.

Worst of all in Canada, **section 36 (a)** below is so far from being met and it's a “law”. I won't go into a rant about the homeless, growing child poverty, single moms etceteras here, but there is obviously less and less commitment as long as more and more wealth is being consolidated through tax breaks etcetera by the few at the top while homelessness and child poverty increase.

36. (1) Without altering the legislative authority of Parliament or of the provincial legislatures, or the rights of any of them with respect to the exercise of their legislative authority, Parliament and the legislatures, together with the government of Canada and the provincial governments, are committed to **(a) promoting equal opportunities for the well-being of all Canadians;** .

There are a number of critical areas within our own constitution where **“the welfare of all the people”** has not and has never been met, because our system is based on an ancient one for the few. •

For the comfort of some- I quote Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**, (used frequently in the Commons, as per Hansard).

“ May God Bless Canada! ”

... from GW Bushland where **state is no longer separate from the church as per constitutional decree.** •

History of Our Parliament

a class system at heart from the start!

As you will see, our **Parliamentary** system is simply a modification of a primitive clan / tribal chieftain organization which became a continuously changing mish mash of arrangements which at their heart sought and continue to seek to maintain control of the many by the few in power. (abridged from Wikipedia by LR)

“**The Origin of our Parliament** was a council known as the Witenagemot, who advised the King. Its primary members were the King's sons and brothers. The Ealdormen, or executive heads of the shires, also had seats in the Witenagemot, as did the senior clergymen of the state. The King still possessed ultimate authority, but laws were made after seeking the advice of the Witenagemot.

“The entire Anglo-Saxon body politic was reformed when **William of Normandy** conquered England in **1066**. William brought to England the feudal system he was accustomed to in his native France. Thus, he granted land to his most important military supporters, who in turn granted land to their supporters, thus creating a feudal hierarchy. Those who held lands directly from the King were known as tenants-in-chief, and the territories they held were called manors. William I was an absolute ruler, but, as a matter of course, he sought the advice of a council of tenants-in-chief and ecclesiastics, before making laws.

“The tenants-in-chief often struggled with their spiritual counterparts and with the King for power. In 1215, they secured from **King John** the Magna Carta, which established that the King may not levy or collect any taxes save with the consent of his council (except the feudal taxes to which they were hitherto accustomed). It was also established that the earls and the barons—the most important tenants-in-chief, as well as the ecclesiastics (archbishops, bishops and abbots) be summoned to the council by personal writs from the Sovereign, and that all others be summoned to the council by general writs from the sheriffs of their counties. John later repealed the Magna Carta, but **Henry III** was forced to reinstate it as a child, repealed it when he came of age, and reinstated it again later.

“Development

The royal council slowly developed into a Parliament. The first time the term Parliament appears in official documents was during Henry III's reign. It was still largely an informal affair and was not an official body. It was more often used to refer to who ever was available for Henry III's council. In 1265, **Simon de Montfort**, 6th Earl of Leicester, who was in rebellion against Henry III, summoned the first elected parliament without any prior royal authorization. The right to vote in Parliamentary elections for county constituencies was uniform throughout the country, granting a vote to all “freeholders” those “landed” class who had been given land at some time by the King and who paid him an annual rent of 40 shillings (Forty-shilling Freeholders). In the boroughs, the franchise varied and individual boroughs had varying arrangements. The archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls and barons were summoned, as were two knights from each shire and two burgesses from each borough. Knights had been summoned to previous councils, but the representation of the boroughs was unprecedented. De Montfort's scheme was formally adopted by **Edward I** in the so-called “Model Parliament” of 1295. At first, each estate debated independently; by the reign of Edward III, however, Parliament had been

separated into two Houses: one, including the nobility and higher clergy, the other, including the knights and burgesses. The moment that may mark Parliament's emergence as a true institution in England was the deposition of **Edward II**. Even though it is debatable if Edward II was deposed in Parliament or by Parliament, it was clear from this point forward that it was an institution that would be at the centre of English government for a long time. The authority of Parliament grew under **Edward III**; it was established that no law could be made, nor any tax levied, without the consent of both Houses as well as of the Sovereign. This was a development that came out of necessity for Edward III as he was involved in the Hundred Years War and needed finances. He tried to circumvent Parliament as much as possible and thereby the barons as well, which caused them to push for its institutionalization.

“The growing influence of Parliament was restrained by numerous civil wars. By the end of the Wars of the Roses, royal supremacy had been restored. The Crown was at the height of its power during the reign of **Henry VIII**. The number of the Lords Spiritual diminished under Henry, who commanded the Dissolution of the Monasteries, thereby depriving the abbots and priors of their seats in the Upper House. For the first time, the Lords Temporal were more numerous than the Lords Spiritual. Parliaments continued to behave submissively under the Tudor monarchs who followed Henry, but began to display an unusual sense of independence under **Elizabeth I**. As England evolved into a world power, members of both Houses actively discussed succession to the Crown (the Queen never married) and condemned various royal policies. Their new-found boldness proved intolerable to Elizabeth's Scottish successor, **James I** (who was simultaneously King in Scotland as James VI). The great struggle between the Crown and Parliament occurred under James I's successor, **Charles I**. Alarmed by the arbitrary exercise of royal power, the House of Commons submitted to Charles the Petition of Right, demanding the restoration of their liberties, in 1628. Though he accepted the petition, he later dissolved Parliament and ruled without them for eleven years. It was only after the financial disaster of the Scottish Bishops' Wars (1639–1640) that he was forced to recall Parliament in order that they may authorize new taxes. The new Parliament was quite rebellious; their struggle for power with the Crown culminated in the English Civil War. Those supporting the cause of Parliament were called Parliamentarians (nicknamed Roundheads). In 1649, Charles was executed and replaced by the military dictator Oliver Cromwell. The House of Lords was abolished, and the House of Commons remained subordinate to Cromwell. After Cromwell's death, however, the monarchy was restored in 1660. The House of Lords also returned.

“Following the Restoration, monarchs undertook to regularly summon Parliament. Nevertheless, there was no explicit guarantee of Parliamentary liberties until **James II**, an unpopular Catholic ruler, was forced to flee the country in 1688. Parliament “deemed” that he had abdicated, but it offered the Crown to his Protestant daughter Mary, instead of his Catholic son. **Mary II** ruled jointly with her husband, **William III**.

“Union: the Parliament of Great Britain

Following the Treaty of Union in 1707 twin Acts of Parliament passed in the Parliament of England and the Parliament of Scotland created a new Kingdom of Great Britain and dissolved both parliaments, replacing them with a new Parliament of Great Britain based in the former home of the English parliament. > p.8

“Future The re-establishment of a devolved English parliament, giving separate decision-making powers to representatives for voters in England similar to the representation given by the Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly, is an issue in British politics, due to the anomaly of Scottish MPs having a say in English issues, whereas English MPs are unable to vote on issues that affect Scotland exclusively. The question of a devolved English parliament was considered a minor issue until the Conservative Party announced policy proposals to ban Scottish MPs from voting on English issues, thus raising the profile of the issue. • **END Wiki**

Canada and Parliament - Although the Parliament of Canada is pretty much a reflection of the British Parliament adopted in **1867** - The **Constitution of Canada** is a specific set of working guidelines to Canada’s Parliament.

The Constitution is available on line and due to its incredibly disconcertingly convoluted complexity, that is a great place to peruse it with its multitude of built in hotlinks to amendments to the amendments to the changes to the adaptations to subsections lesser and greater. Our Constitution is much like the old rule book for the game for which the **“Earl Grey Rugby Football Champions”** trophy is awarded annually to the CFL Champs.

The constitution is as bewildering a Gordian knot of laws as those set out for **Rugby** or the **“Manual of rules adapted for Canadian Rugby Football”** which was far far more complicated until **Grumpa Read** helped consolidate all the articles to the sub-paragraphs to the subsections to the Laws... or whatever that document had mish mash evolved into.

On **p.9** is a copy of the opening of the **Act...** this one happens to be from **'82** as it is the one I am most interested in. It doesn't matter which one of the many versions one looks at, they are only modifications of the **Union Jack of Constitutions**, that **old and irrelevant** for the Canadian masses, **British document.**•

Dear All: I can't say that I would not be disappointed or disconcerted or surprised if any or all of you are ready to give up on this important Quest to do our small part in saving our small vulnerable planet after all we as a family may have done so far. Yet it is nothing.

I am only acting here as the consummate professional teacher I have tried to be these past two decades, in this case for a family I love and one which I hope might re-establish a **good and proper connections with our true compassionate roots**. But perhaps my teaching career really es terminado totalmente.

I do not put us down when I say that we have all perhaps grown a little too comfortable in our middle class world, however, please let us try to never forget the source of the privileged life we in the **North** all live. I understand **“That's just the way it is!”** but we must get over this for we all know it's wrong! Hundreds of millions of children and women live and die in depressed conditions in **Africa, India, Malaysia, S & C America-** lands that suffer economic disadvantage to this day due to centuries of rape and pillage of resources and labour by **us**, the **European and British Empire** especially, and now today by the **USA** and for that matter all of us in the **North** who sip our **Starbuck** coffees and prance about in our child-made **Niki** sneakers kicking footballs made by the tiny hands of **Pakistani** kids. •

Propaganda

Every time we read information released by our **Canadian** and **Provincial** govts, or the **Fraser Institute** through our right wing biased **CanWest Global Media** we are reading propaganda, whether or not we agree with it. If we disagree we label it propaganda, if we agree we call it proof. In another sense everything that was ever written is propaganda. **Darwin** chose to believe that there is evolution and dismissed other observations as anomaly. **“Thank god”** he did or perhaps we'd all be bible thumping **GW Bush** evangelicals to this day, quoting propaganda from Genesis to Revelations. We take a side or point of view on something and anything that refutes it we label propaganda. That which supports it we call affirmation. Like all of you, I have too much reading & writing to do to waste time on fiction, especially right wing climate change lies, unless of course it's entertaining. •

Please Teach Me,

I Really Am Open to Learning

I am hoping it is totally within the ability of those studious types in the family, in scope of academic and University learning, along with the obvious wise and well read opinion of other family members, to explain to me and perhaps us all why Canadians and Americans continue to believe the class-dividing, environmentally destructive **“free”** world, **adversarial Dominant Democratic Model** is superior to any other model. I'd really like to understand why an ancient political system which allows the corporate lobbied few to control the many, is remotely morally right, better or even slightly acceptable in the modern era of **Medium is the Message Marshall McLuhan's - Global Village**.

I am of course not inquiring here of the economic, political, government models of now long outdated, environmentally ignorant times – the times of **Adam Smith** and **John Locke**, etc. I am interested in an explanation that applies to this day and age at a time when we all recognize the supreme challenge we face as our solar beaten, ozone depleted, thin atmosphere, cancer inducing, forest & coral reef vanishing, polar bear 'extincting', fresh water deficient, global society of some too many billions of people is in dire straits. Why is a better model NOT well overdue.

This world is one **B&S** Unlimited never bought into when they created their own seven children **R,L,D,H,A,C&D**. They did not contemplate a world into which would marry **S,C,B&J-** a planet on which we would ovulate, copulate, womb, gestate and carefully nurture **C,J,T,S,S,J,A,T,S,G,L&A**, whom we are today so rightfully proud of. (Special thank-you's all here to our family's **mothers** for numerous **9-plus** months of dedication while we men had it easy- drinking alcohol, not carrying **10+ kilos** etc.) That my family **IS** life and I might **ADD** in Abundance bordering today on global irresponsibility which we did not ken much about in the **1950s** to late **'80s**. However, what we **ADULTS** do about it now **IS** indicative of global responsibility. We **“did the dirty deed”**, now it's **“time to pay the piper”** and that is not, strictly speaking, such a disjunct and mixed metaphor.

POINT of family interest here: even with all this bairn, we core **South/Read/Lawrences** are still doomed to die off genetically- the Mitochondrial DNA being strictly carried by the female of females to females, as in the 'mother **Eve** principle'. None of our **B&S** females had daughters. **Patricia** did not have a **Lawrence/ Eleanor** daughter, so that line dead-ends too. **Auntie June** and **Bonnie Goring**, **Butch's** sister had no daughters but **Tom Goring's** daughter's daughter carries Goring on. **Jean Hickernell** begat **Sue** who begat **Nicole, Michelle & Jacqie** and >>> **p.9**

Cath begat Tee who may carry that line forward. Alice Hall begat Maureen begat Andrea so they continue that line. The South/Lawrence line is terminado. Just a thought provoking wee genetic point. Heath, Hol, Jo, Pritch, any chance for another girl here?!

Back to the main point. All of us might strive harder from this day forth to help create, induce, force, coerce major changes in Government and fellow Canadians to lead the G8 world by serious example. Canada has often been a leader in major change. Why not again! Perhaps some of us could go back to school and re-learn our basic government of, by and FOR all the people principles, then help our government relearn it as well. Like- in today's global society, "what is good for the people is what is good for the world" not just what is good for our local Canadian society as in days of yore and ancient lore.

My brothers and sisters, we are in a bit of a fix here. A stinky bind! A pickle! We're over a barrel! Up the creek without a paddle! It's both SNAFU & FUBAR; a catch 22 – we're damned if we don't and really hooped if we choose not to. We have made our parochial bed and now we are responsible to sleep in it. **If we do nothing we can each seriously consider our lives as failures** – despite all the quality time, all the effort, all the sports practices driven to and coached, anything and all we did for our kids and for our local community, school hot-dog sales, etc. is time well spent but wasted as to their future- **PERIOD!**

Perhaps, all of us need to read, study, think, discuss, reflect & study more to try to understand and work together to do what we can as a **LARGE family** to make this world less destructive and harmful for all these wonderful kids we are leaving a shambles too. We need to abort our sacred **Status Quo** and move on to a new enlightened world for the sake of all. •

Reading List Exchange

I am of course, curious where family, especially the post secondary, degreed or soon to be in the family, garnered, gathered, learned all the "facts" and "information" which brought them to their current frame of mind, thought, "knowledge" and Opinion! in regards to such an ardent condemnation of the system of "one party" **cooperative democratic** government & current political situation in Cuba. What books on world politics, government, economic conditions & the environment are they reading? I am tearing through reading "more than a full time student" at this time in my life but I'm missing the learning strands they are consuming, believing, clinging to. I would like to exchange reading lists to understand what I'm missing.

What causes us to ignore how well **Cubans** are doing in their first **50 years** as a free and independent people while we continue to ignore the cruel **40 year** blockade by the largest most ferocious and deadliest armed Terrorist organization in the history of the planet, 150 km away from her shores. What is it that allows us to ignore the fact that the **non-dominant Democratic** government system in **Cuba** allows it to measure higher than Canada on the **Gini Coefficient** and to measure up to the **Kyoto** agreement while, for economic reasons, my country **Canada** has aborted its promise- following now in the path of **Australia & USA**. •

Whatever would I do without my laptop & large library of summary notes. I do not possess a mind trap like **Grumpa, Stephen, Derek, Sean, Stuart, Thms or Fidel**. I must summarize, record, & review all, before I synthesize my own thoughts and conclusions before composing. •

Read•Read•Read•Read•Read•Read

I offer to compile a list of relevant materials to help us understand the current differences in our politics. E-mail those materials you think important in shaping ideas relevant for today. Here's a small sample of what I've been into the past few years- much is available at ***Gutenberg.org** or the internet elsewhere.

Non-Fiction: *The Republic* – Plato. *Government- Cicero & Virgil*; *A Concise Summary and Critique of Adam Smith-* Andrew Skinner, *Wealth of Nations I & II-* Adam Smith*; *Government by Constitution: The Political Systems of Democracy* - Herbert J. Spiro; *Democratic Legislative Institutions: A Comparative View* - David M. Olson; *Patterns of Government: The Major Political Systems of Europe* - Samuel H. Beer, Adam B. Ulam, Nicholas Wah; *Understanding Politics: The Cultures of Societies and the Structures of Governments* - William S. Stewart; *Non-Democratic Regimes: Theory, Government and Politics* - Paul Brooker; *Founding Brothers* - Joseph J. Ellis (Pulitzer Prize); *Lenin- A Biography* Robert Service 2002 - good ideas, sick man in the end. *Modern Political Economics-* <http://www.jim.com/econ/preface.html>; *Cuba - A Revolution in Motion* - Isaac Saney

@@@ **Classic Book From the Archives** @@@

The Invisible Government- The CIA, Wise & Ross '64/74

John F.Kennedy in 1961 commenting on the CIA said: "True Democracies are opposed to secrecy. The very word secrecy is repugnant in a free and open society. The dangers to our very society of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweighs the dangers which are cited to justify it." Worth a read as the United States has never been more under control of the **invisible government** than right now.

Fiction: *The Bible*; (okay I skipped, a few books like Leviticus, Kings, Prophets, etc. and other ancient history stuff, I've yawn read before); *The Canadian Constitution*; *The Source* - Michener (better than the Bible); *London*; *Sarum*; *Ruska*; *Princes of Ireland* - all by **Rutherford**. While these last four are fiction they've been described as "historically accurate portrayal of the lives, struggles and politics covering a spectrum of different classes and societies. *Grapes of Wrath* (A classic even third time around).

***Wealth of Nations** is a 550 page bugger- THANK **Grumpa** and **Derek** for pointing me to the **Gutenberg Project**- 3 min. flash-drive download here in Cuba, well worth a few pesos to read free on my laptop. PoliSci Austrian, **Maxi** has been there for me to tutor some concepts as needed. Bright kid that one.

Although, **Adam Smith** was only making observations check out this principle: "The colony of a **civilized** nation which takes possession... of a country, so thinly inhabited that the natives easily give place to the new settlers, advances more rapidly to wealth and **greatness** than any other human society." What definition of **civilized** and **greatness** was he using I ponder?

John Locke can be summarized thusly, "**It is self evident that I am, therefore God is!**" **Thomas Jefferson** a slave owner, later lies more boldly "**We hold these truths to be self evident...**" •

• **e-mail Uncle Lance** books about how Canada can change to improve **lread@sd43.bc.ca**

post May '07"retirement": magickall_wizard@hotmail.com

NB - All good government I was ever on was **One party**- especially **Kits Grad council** and **UBC's Student Council** with president **Heather Lacelle** (Tennyson May Jones's daughter). **Non adversarial representative government = Efficiency**

CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982(1)

PART I - CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Whereas Canada is founded upon the principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law:

Guarantee of Rights and Freedoms

1. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Fundamental Freedoms

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:
(a) freedom of conscience and religion
(b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other means of communication.
(c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
(d) freedom of association.

Democratic Rights

3. Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein.

4. (1) No House of Commons and no legislative assembly shall continue for longer than five years from the date fixed for the return of the writs at a general election of its members. (2) In time of real or apprehended war, invasion or insurrection, a House of Commons may be continued by Parliament and a legislative assembly may be continued by the legislature beyond five years if such continuation is not opposed by the votes of more than one-third of the members of the House of Commons or the legislative assembly, as the case may be. (3)

5. There shall be a sitting of Parliament and of each legislature at least once every twelve months. (4)

Mobility Rights

6. (1) Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in, and leave Canada.
(2) Every citizen of Canada and every person who has the status of a permanent resident of Canada has the right
(a) to move to and take up residence in any province; and
(b) to pursue the gaining of livelihood in any province.
(3) The rights specified in subsection (2) are subject to
(a) any laws or practices of general application in force in a province other than those that discriminate among persons primarily on the basis of present or previous residence; and
(b) any laws providing for reasonable residency requirements as a qualification for the receipt of publicly provided social services.
(4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration in a province of conditions of individuals in that province who are socially or economically disadvantaged if the rate of employment in that province is below the rate of employment in Canada.

NB – In this first page opening part of the constitution there are five links to major addendum and sub-addendum to the act. We can't even get past the title without being redirected. I know that laws are sometimes necessarily complex, but this act is such an adaption of a collection of amendments of an ancient document written for another country in a far past time as to be a ridiculous joke. It is unavailable to the common Canadian, just the way those in power want things to be so that only a handful of lawyers and academic experts come close to understanding it and can help those in power retain that power and control of the “lesser” classes. • p.10



Parade pics above^



Chango altar above ^^^
London Karen's birthday below



Che Wasn't a Commie quite yet – in 1962 he wrote:

“...even though it's in the distant future, we should be thinking about communism, Marx's more perfect society...”

Fidel speaks of Che's energy saying that every single one of his mandatory days away from government desk-work Che spent doing hard physical labour with the workers.

In 1962 - Che wrote “... many compañeros thought that reaching the new stage of society automatically meant being free from responsibility and acquiring only rights. That is precisely a reflection of the old society, in the consciousness of men who are building a new society...”

Economist- Uncle Stephen may find this interesting:

A seminal summary work in the area of modern economics may be found at <http://www.jim.com/econ/preface.html>

All of this was very new to me and is very interesting covering the following topics:

The Broken Window; The Blessings of Destruction; Public Works Means Taxes; Taxes Discourage Production; Credit Diverts Production; The Curse of Machinery; Spread the Work Schemes; Disbanding Troops and Bureaucrats; The Fetish of Full Employment; Who's "Protected" by Tariffs?; The Drive for Exports; Parity" Prices; Saving the X Industry; How the Price System Works; "Stabilizing" Commodities; Government Price Fixing; What Rent Control Does; Minimum Wage Laws; Do Unions Really Raise Wages; Enough to Buy Back Products" The Function of Profits; The Mirage of Inflation; The Assault on Savings

"THIS BOOK IS AN ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC FALLACIES that are at last so prevalent that they have almost become a new orthodoxy. The one thing that has prevented this has been their own self-contradictions, which have scattered those who accept the same premises into a hundred different "schools," for the simple reason that it is impossible in matters touching practical life to be consistently wrong. But the difference between one new school and another is merely that one group wakes up earlier than another to the absurdities to which its false premises are driving it, and becomes at that moment inconsistent by either unwittingly abandoning its false premises or accepting conclusions from them less disturbing or fantastic than those that logic would demand.

"There is not a major government in the world at this moment, however, whose economic policies are not influenced if they are not almost wholly determined by acceptance of some of these fallacies. Perhaps the shortest and surest way to an understanding of economics is through a dissection of such errors, and particularly of the central error from which they stem. That is the assumption of this volume and of its somewhat ambitious and belligerent title.

"The volume is therefore primarily one of exposition. It makes no claim to originality with regard to any of the chief ideas that it expounds. Rather its effort is to show that many of the ideas which now pass for brilliant innovations and advances are in fact mere revivals of ancient errors, and a further proof of the dictum that those who are ignorant of the past are condemned to repeat it. The present essay itself is, I suppose, unblushingly "classical," "traditional" and "orthodox"; at least these are the epithets with which those whose sophisms are here subjected to analysis will no doubt attempt to dismiss it. But the student whose aim is to attain as much truth as possible will not be frightened by such adjectives. He will not be forever seeking a revolution, a "fresh start," in economic thought. His mind will, of course, be as receptive to new ideas as to old ones; but he will be content to put aside merely restless or 'exhibitionistic' straining for novelty and originality. As Morris R. Cohen has remarked "The notion that we can dismiss the views of all previous thinkers surely leaves no basis for the hope that our own work will prove of any value to others." Because this is a work of exposition I have availed myself freely and without detailed acknowledgment (except for rare footnotes and quotations) of the ideas of others. This is inevitable when one writes in a field in which many of the world's finest minds have labored. But my indebtedness to at least three writers is of so specific a nature that I cannot allow it to pass unmentioned. My greatest debt, with respect to the kind of expository framework on which the present argument is hung,

is to Frederic Bastiat's essay *Ce qu'on voit et ce qu'on ne voit pas*, now nearly a century old. The present work may, in fact, be regarded as a modernization, extension and generalization of the approach found in Bastiat's pamphlet. My second debt is to Philip Wicksteed: in particular the chapters on wages and the final summary chapter owe much to his *Common-sense of Political Economy*. My third debt is to Ludwig von Mises. Passing over everything that this elementary treatise may owe to his writings in general, my most specific debt is to his exposition of the manner in which the process of monetary inflation is spread.

"When analyzing fallacies, I have thought it still less advisable to mention particular names than in giving credit. To do so would have required special justice to each writer criticized, with exact quotations, account taken of the particular emphasis he places on this point or that, the qualifications he makes, his personal ambiguities, inconsistencies, and so on. I hope, therefore, that no one will be too disappointed at the absence of such names as Karl Marx, Thorstein Veblen, Major Douglas, Lord Keynes, Professor Alvin Hansen and others in these pages. The object of this book is not to expose the special errors of particular writers, but economic errors in their most frequent, widespread or influential form. Fallacies, when they have reached the popular stage, become anonymous anyway. The subtleties or obscurities to be found in the authors most responsible for propagating them are washed off. A doctrine becomes simplified; the sophism that may have been buried in a network of qualifications, ambiguities or mathematical equations stands clear. I hope I shall not be accused of injustice on the ground, therefore, that a fashionable doctrine in the form in which I have presented it is not precisely the doctrine as it has been formulated by Lord Keynes or some other special author. It is the beliefs which politically influential groups hold and which governments act upon that we are interested in here, not the historical origins of those beliefs.

"I hope, finally, that I shall be forgiven for making such rare reference to statistics in the following pages. To have tried to present statistical confirmation, in referring to the effects of tariffs, price-fixing, inflation, and the controls over such commodities as coal, rubber and cotton, would have swollen this book much beyond the dimensions contemplated.

"I have tried to write this book as simply and with as much freedom from technicalities as is consistent with reasonable accuracy, so that it can be fully understood by a reader with no previous acquaintance with economics." The Author

Lance Read, as someone with little previous acquaintance with economic studies appreciated being able to read and understand. There have been times in his life when he wished he had taken some business courses and economics, any economics. As he sifted through this work of old and new concepts he saw how different they are and he grew to see that our governments, banks & businesses have so much to un-think and re-think. •

When Lance was working mid '70s for the McDonald Bros. helping alter formulas in a computer program for business taxes & payroll with changes in the Act each year he knew nothing about financial math, book-keeping accounts and ledgers and was under direction. This was with 10" floppies on an IBM 5110 Micro-computer half the size of a washing-machine. Then came IBM PCs & ACCPAC with 5.25" floppies and 128K RAM then 256 K and finally a whopping 512 K. A finger size flash drive-today can hold 1 GB.

Adam Smith – 17th Century & Today

“The annual labour of every nation is the fund which originally supplies it with all the necessaries and conveniences of life which it annually consumes, and which consist always either in the immediate produce of that labour, or in what is purchased with that produce from other nations.

“According, therefore, as this produce, or what is purchased with it, bears a greater or smaller proportion to the number of those who are to consume it, the nation will be better or worse supplied with all the necessaries and conveniences for which it has occasion.

“But this proportion must in every nation be regulated by two different circumstances: first, by the skill, dexterity, and judgment with which its labour is generally applied; and, secondly, by the proportion between the number of those who are employed in **useful labour**, and that of those who are not so employed. Whatever be the soil, climate, or extent of territory of any particular nation, the abundance or scantiness of its annual supply must, in that particular situation, depend upon those two circumstances.

Imagine what would happen to **US military might**, if everyone just stopped trading with them and they had to **go back and apply their labours to useful production for survival**.
One can only dream like John Lennon.

Smith points out that:

“... slavery (in Medieval Europe) was of a milder kind than that known among the ancient Greeks and Romans, **or even in our West Indian colonies**. They were supposed to belong more directly to the land than to their master...”

“If he maimed, harmed or murdered any of them, he was liable to some penalty, though generally but to a small one.”

Why are we consumers in the north and our large coffee and cocoa companies not today held liable for the ill-effects caused by cheaper methods of production which leave women and children susceptible to illness, blindness and cancers. Why do we continue to buy non-fair trade coffees, cocoa, fruit, etcetera?

Smith also says:

“Whatever cultivation and improvement could be carried on by means of such slaves... was at his expense. The seed, the cattle, and the instruments of husbandry, were all his. It was for his benefit. **Such slaves could acquire nothing but their daily maintenance.**”

And it has NEVER been abolished. What really, I ask, is the difference between the form of “liberal slavery” Adam Smith identifies and the virtual version found in the fields of Southern California, New Mexico, and Texas, where the global economy's multinational corporates own huge tracts of agricultural land worked by cheap migrant day labour? What of Mexico's hectares & hectares of industrial parks, where workers are paid as little as possible and then have to live near the untreated cancerous byproducts which were once nitrilized as part of costs in Canada and the United States? Today they're left untreated and poorly stored the way they were in Soviet East Germany to further cut costs to us Northern consumers. What is the moral difference between those millions who are virtually **indentured** under our control through our World Banks which set their standard of living and slave-wage so we may cheaply reap their labours in perpetuity? **We are masters, they our servants.** •

It's a Crazy FOOD World 2005

1. The **World Health Organization** points out: Obesity in Canada and the United States is a quickly growing health problem, though it is occurring in the US at more than twice the rate of Canada.

2. **UNFAO – Food and Agricultural Organization** states: Ten years ago 185 countries pledged to cut the number of malnourished humans in half from 800 to 400 million with better programs of distribution of excess food production. This past year, 2005, UNFAO notes there has actually been an increase of 20 million malnourished overall.

3. Marketing boards in North America and the EU report the following **2005** totals for destroyed, rancid, or spoiled food: 19 million eggs, 3.4 million litres dairy milk, 37.5 tonnes butter, 1,120 tonnes cereal grains, 664,000 tonnes other food stuffs.

Crazy “egg on face” world this! •

Let us Be Thankful

As we tuck into our family feast this December 25th or 25th & 26th in Tring- let us not feel guilty about the starving in Africa, BUT do let us give heartfelt thanks for our own provinder and also truly appreciative of every mere morsal every day (East Europe Journal). And let us get involved in seeing that the marketing boards are redesigned so that we may see farmers compensated properly and excess food shipped overseas and not destroyed. •

I inquired by e-mail why the egg and dairy marketing boards allow **Walmart** and **Save On Foods** to demand quantity pricing which they set no matter how small the operation, then ship all product to Alberta for processing and packaging to be redistributed to stores in BC, while independent small operators, in the PG area for example, are excluded from marketing their product, for a living wage, right down the street. When I pointed out the better way as outlined by UBC Agricultural Sciences which would cost consumers 5% less, bring 10% more to the struggling farmers, & reduce huge profits to Pattison Co. I received the following reply.

“Regional cooperation in food marketing has been a complicated process for some time. The NAFTA and resulting quota systems have only served to further complicate the process and procedures surrounding the Canadian agricultural / food industry and our marketing systems. We thank you for your concerns and input and will take under advisement.”

Thank you so much for that NON-explanation. •

Cuba's 500 Year Families

Cubans speak of **500** year families- extended families that have reached in total- 500 years of experience and life. We with two octogenarians, a herd of over 45's as well as a flock of pre and post teens and throwing in the guidance of two mid-80s elder

Rodwells - I think I get a combined family community experience, energy & wisdom to be seen, of almost **800** years.

This is a call to all of us in our family to become just as energetically and wisely involved in anti globalization, anti consumer capitalism, anti-NAFTA education of government and people as we have been in our own family, neighbourhoods, and local communities. As individuals we are insignificant and the battle is daunting. As the Read, Rodwell, Hall, MacLeod, Doré, Wang clan we have far more strength, talent and power to begin to steer friends, associates and society into less dangerous waters through our combined direct and outspoken example. •

22nd Memorial Boy Scout Troop

Growing up in a family with five siblings was always somewhat of a democratic learning environment. Although our Comandante en Jefe had final authority, her closest adviser, co-commander **William** was in ultimate charge of disciplinary matters. With a small tribe at the dinner table it was necessary to go round-table for input about the day and schooling. Work detail was pretty much a cooperative effort, dish-washing was worked into busy nightly schedules for Scouting, CGIT, swim lessons, etc. **Scouts, was ironically, where I really discovered democracy.**

Though quite military in model, Scouting was where I would learn how democracy could work. **Martin Reeve** surprised me on my return from permanent expulsion by making me a patrol leader; my challenge - reign in the "**Messenger boys**" - six energetic, angry foster kids who would be my entire patrol. I had been an elementary school Traffic Safety Patrol **Captain**, but that was easy compared to what this would turn out to be.

That same night we were all told this would be the largest ever **Onalistik** (Kitsilano bkwrds) Camporee. The leaders of our 22nd Canadian Memorial Troop very much wanted to bring home the pennant from Mamquam, beating out **St. Chad's, St. David's, St. Etcetera** from our district. It was January and the camp would be in May. "You have four months to prepare, here's the list of activities and skills... break to patrols!"

My bored six were already punching shoulders and chasing around after each other – a mere reflection of my own behaviour.

I never once yelled at these kids one and two years younger than me but my first "command" was "Okay you losers get over here in this corner, 'cuz you have to pick a Seconder who can help us win this Camporee. Ya'know they expect us to mess up 'cuz we're all losers don't ya! Lets' just win the stupid thing to piss'em off. When you decide who it is, he's t'come and get me. I'll be talkin' to Martin". This may have been one of the first times these neglected and abused kid had been given any power.

I went to parade circle centre to "thank" **Martin and David Podmore (Barry Holmes** was up North) for letting me come back to Scouts and for giving me such a great patrol. The first two times I was kicked out, Martin allowed me back after a few weeks of banishment. This time it had been permanent. Mom had worked her charms for one last chance. Martin had obviously decided to try something new and perhaps some authority over my brat peers would be a good lesson.

I told **Martin** we would bring the pennant home if that was okay. "He smiled through his new braces and said, "Oh I know YOU can do it. How much do **they** want it, is the question?" **Dylan**, (not his real name) arrived, interrupted as typical and announced "I'm the new Seconder, wadda'ya want me to do?"

"Why don't you take them for a lap around the park across the street", I suggested, "... and Dylan! bring 'em all back to our patrol corner alive!" "Anything else?" he asked.

"Yah!" I said, "Help us win this thing, an' oh yah! You're in charge of fire skills!" He ran off with an excited smile.

"Good idea!" said Martin smiling "What?" I asked.

"The not getting killed part!"

As I turned to leave, Podmore said, "You know Dylan's a pyromaniac. He's being treated by a psychologist!"

"Yah!" I said, "He tried to burn down the Herring's garage across from us!" adding cheekily, "Guess it's not workin' too good".

con't >>> *The Messenger boys...*

The Messenger boys won everything at **Onalistik '66-** Ship Shape Campsite, campfire food, knots and lashings, orienteering, and almost every fire skill challenge. Although I had been their Patrol Leader, we had worked out everything together, delegating areas of responsibility by skill and strength. They walked away with that little felt Camporee pennant hands down. All of those Messenger brats turned out well over the years.

A decade later I met **Dylan** by accident in our back lane. We stood staring at the Herring's old place. He was well dressed and coiffed. "Fuc& I was an angry kid!" he said. "Ya turned out good though", I replied, "What ya gonna do with yourself?"

"Dunno! Law maybe." he said. Dylan turned out to be a Family Court Judge who specialized in troubled youth.

p.s. Dylan was a year ahead of sister Heath's grad class – she always liked him. "He's a good looking boy" she used to say. I believe the pennant Martin passed on to me a few years later is still in the old suite case at 44B Ladner with my old Queen Scout uniform.

One Party Democracy vs Dominant Democracy

1. One party, non-adversarial representative

elected government •free and open non-partisan sittings, input and working sessions, debate and votes are the means to decision making •work more efficiently and generally result in better, fairer decisions for the constituents than self serving adversarial models •Non-adversarial democratic representative governments work well all around us all the time. A few are:

a. Parent Advisory Council- consist of elected representative parents, admin, several teacher reps and nowadays finally, several selected representative students.

b. School Boards – consist of municipally elected trustees, district superintendent, school admin and teacher association reps and recently finally, student reps.

c. University Senates generally a well functioning one party system, usually includes the Chancellor and or President.

d. City Councils were originally cooperative one party systems. It's only been relatively recently that two or three adversarial partisan factions have developed- as in Vancouver's COPE etc. It's been a pain in the ass ever since, but traditionally, not a feature of municipal governments.

e. Boards of Directors- though the vested interest of members sometimes leads to poor decisions on behalf of the affected public and share-holders- e.g **ENRON**.

f. High School / University councils- consist of elected president, secretary, treasurer, etc. University- elected reps from each faculty. The year I was Education Rep. on council it almost turned into a two party system of equal females and equal males. It was, for the first time, slightly dysfunctional. I attribute this to gender based reasons, partly due to a slight resentment towards the first ever female president, especially by the engineers who frequently "held" that position over the years alternating occasionally with science and rarely with arts. During one decision making vote, whether the annual grad class gift would be a concrete ramp for wheelchair access to the >>> p.14 **War**

War Memorial Gym or a slick new electronic notice board to advertise upcoming athletics, I myself swung the vote towards the ramp and received a bit of guy hassle on that one. I thought the ramp was a better use of the \$3000 because there was a young kid named **Rick Hanson** who was having to get assistance dragging his wheelchair up and down half dozen stairs every time he came to the gym for class or to play rec volleyball with us.

g. Private Club Executives- e.g. **Meraloma** Athletic Club- consist of elected President; Sport Section VPs- rugby, soccer, etcetera; Secretary; Treasurer, etc. as well as the Current Past-president, and elected Directors- often retired active athletes like **Gus Fumano** and **John Podmore** whose years of club involvement are a valued asset in decision making. The striking of **sub-committees** is a common practice in cooperative democratic organizations. Generally, three to five executive members, take on short term one time major tasks such as roof replacement or fire suppression system, study the options, collect quotes, work with city Parks-Board if necessary, then report back to the full executive. If Executive needs more information the sub-committee does so. In the end the Executive vote for what they feel is the best proposal on behalf of the entire membership. (I was very proud to serve as Loma VP of PR for fifteen years).

2. Dominant Democratic Models- where two or more parties compete in costly elections to win control of government. Party "partisan" politics distract from doing the work of running the province or country. Much of the time is spent by the opposition party denigrating those in power to attempt to win power in the next election. We see parties flip flop on policy in this way all the time. e.g "The GST you just introduced is abhorrent and we will remove it immediately WE come to power". It remains to be seen now in the USA how the Democrats will handle Iraq and control of the Middle East.

The US Republic was never meant to be anything but a cooperative one party system. It developed into a two party system as a result of polarized vested interests. It is a perfect example today of "same bus different driver" politics, something Canada has formed solidly into. One need only look at the past number of elections where corruption on both sides has been voted out of power several times over; where the GST has never disappeared through more effective efficient government.

Israel has an atrocious adversarial multi-party system which is heavily influenced by the Orthodox religious right which always seems to get a foot in on whatever coalition government takes power. The Orthodox influence gave the mass murderer **Ariel Sharon** free reign in Lebanon in 1981 when the massacres at Sabra and Shateel refugee camps took place.

Germany's Parliamentary elections in 2005 resulted in a bizarre coalition. Check that one out.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara "Shaggy Beara" as my kids have always called him.

I know this name invokes shivers and repulsion in some family members. What is it about the teaching's of **Che Guevara*** that threatens or scares people in the economically dominant Northern countries? I have to assume that those who reject his ideas have understood very well what he taught us, at least after they've read at least the **Che Guevara Reader** - (selected) writings on politics & revolution. con't >>> *It is none of us...*

It is none of us that much likes change in our lives. It is human nature to feel more comfortable with the **status quo**. We like our world to stay the same so that we might feel more secure. This is of course understandable, HOWEVER due to GLOBAL environmental destruction, it is simply no longer possible. Consumer driven global frying effects us all. Generations to come will no doubt curse us for our exorbitant lifestyle between 1950 and today 2006 when we used up half the Earth's fossil fuels spewing out carbon as if tomorrow would never come.

Che **Guevara** was in a way- a little bit of **Ghandi** (certainly not the non-violent part), a little of **John F. Kennedy**, a bit of **Jesus ha Nostra**, a slice of **Horatio Nelson**, and a touch of **Nelson Mandela**. He understood **Marti's** ideas as well as **Fidel's**. One can only wonder how much more he would've accomplished**.

"If a country does not control its own economy, if it is penetrated by foreign capital then it cannot help escape the tutelage (administrative control) of the country it is dependent on" - **Che 1960** (today very much Canada/ USA)

Fidel and Che following the teachings of **Jose Marti** and others show how **non-confrontational cooperative representative democracy** is more constructive and efficient than **Dominant Democratic** systems. **Marti** lived from 1828 to 1894 in New York, working as a newspaper journalist. He saw and wrote about how costly and corrupt the US Senatorial Congressional system was. Today hundreds of millions in vested interest party support money is gambled by corporations and individuals on outcomes favourable to them. Like amounts are spent to lobby and effect government decisions. In Canada it would be dozens of millions as well as undisclosed amounts of CIA cash for lobby. Canada's decision to resign the Northern Defense agreement which now includes a version of starwars was influenced in this way.

***Ernesto 'Che' Guevara de la Serna** • born 14 June 1928, Rosario, Argentina • relatively well off upper-middle class family, first of five children • father- construction engineer • developed severe asthma age two prompting family move to drier climate of Alta Gracia • early education provided at home by mother • read widely & deeply from father's extensive library- encountered Plato, Marx and Freud in early teens • 1948 enrolls in medicine, University of Buenos Aires, interested in leprosy research • asthma disqualifies him from military service • makes 4,000 mile long journey through Northern Argentina alone on a moped, encounters many indigenous tribes, experiences first hand the impoverished conditions of their lives • 1951 motorcycle journey with good friend, **Alberto Granado**; travel from Buenos Aires, down coast of Argentina, through Andes into Chile then north into Peru, Columbia and Venezuela; Che diary of this trip published as: **The Motorcycle Diaries: A Journey Around South America**; writes that "American Imperialist policies have economically enslaved the peoples of South America" • 1953 qualifies as doctor, specializing in dermatology • witnesses CIA backed overthrow of Guatemalan government • works in Mexico Central City Hospital • meets **Fidel** and **Raul Castro** banished by Batista for leading student revolts • **October 1967 CIA backed murder in Bolivian school room was darkest irony as Che himself had announced the eradication of illiteracy in Cuba only several years previously.

"As the world oil supplies begin to dwindle in the future, the Yankee Imperialist led wealthy nations will seek, at the peril of all, to control the Middle East." 1962

"Haste la Victoria Siempre"

Accidents are rare here in Cuba

In over four months I've actually never seen one. I was in one **Halloween** day, but I didn't see it. Nothing to contact home about. It was the first heavy rain after a long dry period. The streets were slick. I was crossing at a **Pare** sign with my bright orange Taiga jacket draped over my head, shoulders and pack. A small car was backing up in front of me into the through crossing street to my left. I walked around to the right in front of it. As I stepped up the curb I heard a screech as a large old Chev crashed into the back of the smaller car which jumped forward launching me head first into a brick wall where I dislocated my right middle finger. Lucky for me I had brought my heavy leather boots to be polished in town. They were in my padded pack. My laptop also was next to my spine and both acted as cushions. I was leaning forward in order not to slip backward- perfect spinal launching alignment. Luckily, the car wasn't pushed into the wall cutting me in half. Walked to the same hospital near the University where I've been giving weekly blood samples, had my finger reset and x-rayed and the slight fracture splinted. As a foreign student there's no charge. The next couple of days I was a little stiff and felt like I had played a rugby game with **Stuart** against **Sean** at the age of over 50. My laptop has worked without complaints ever since. As well, after a couple weeks or so I could still play the guitar as it was not my chording hand. By the way... Cuba has now given sight to over **500,000** impoverished S. Americans en situ using portable machines from **China**. Dozens of Amazonian **Gurani** peoples as well, are no longer blind with cataracts and I think that's pretty kewl but only **Grumpa & Grandma** can really know what it's like seeing through a milky white fog. •

“Notable” people and Me

• once shook the hand of **Lieut. Gov. Pearkes** of BC as a Queen Scout, nothing special just glad to get it over with • a year later **Pierre Trudeau** coming through my Regency Caterers line, not Ric's at the Liberal convention asked if I was “working hard?” “Always do”, I said, spooning him some gravy. • Expo '86- very tall man stopped to be friendly to **Tee** beside **Stuart** in the stroller. I asked if this was the way to the mystical Native exhibit. He said he had just come from there and it was excellent. I asked him if he wasn't some famous actor. He said his name **Vincent Price** seemed well known. “Oh!” I said “you did all those horror movies... they were pretty good.” • playing rugby one day at Connaught, someone said “that small bearded guy in the baseball cap standing with Cohen looks like **Steven Spielberg!**”. Later we talked with Spielberg. He had never seen a rugby game live. He was here to take official sponsorship of the Anne Frank exhibit move to California. • of course the rich man **Gates** thing and Microsoft you all know. • once sang with **Diana Krall** at Wreck Beach, didn't know who she was but thought she had a great voice. • “partied” four mid-summer solstices with **Sarah McLaughlin** in her Dunbar backyard - liked **Louise Schwartz's** wild party better. • dated actress **Sarah Chalke** for 4 months, great kid but bi-polar, introverted exhausting, like too much coffee then way sad and she didn't even drink coffee, so insecure and she knows all of these things so I give away no secrets, we're better as friends, she still e-mails, no hello just questions like, “Am I too possessive?”, “Do people think I'm a snob, not shy?”, “Is my skin too white?”- this I answered “Micheal Jackson doesn't think so!” and then I find out what's up and she talks just like this part of this newsletter. • **p. 15**

MORE Importantly...

>>> Influential Names <<<

It all starts with **momma Shirl**, then the Hindle sisters; Grans G, R and S, Uncle A, Gerti Goring, Mr. George Jenvey, Mr. “backlane” Waynes; **Teachers-** Ms. Savage, Mrs. Walden, Messrs Gemmel, Gilliam, Lawson, Umamura, Tasaka, Wardrop, “Great White Father” Henderson, Ms. Buchanan, Ms. Hay AND Loma MacKenzie; **Scout** leader Martin Reeve, Patrol leader Bruce “rock producer” Fairburn- deceased; Uncle Steve, brothers Ric & Derek, dad, Uncle Larry, Howie the Soon; **Langara's-** Mr. Ali (Ric'll remember), Ms. Church (helped craft my crappy writing on her own lunch time), Norm Olenyk (crafted my writing on class time); **Music** Director- Daryl Downton, voice coach Dick Loney; **Meralomas-** Ed Murray, Pete Ohler, Mike McKay-Dunn, Brent “Gosling” Frid, Tommy Keast, Gary, Gary and Gary and Pres. Martin Gotel; **UBCs-** Buzz Moore (always there when you need him), Spence “Spike” McTavish, Herb Capozzi (another missing story), Educ. Drs. Charlie Ungerleider (long time mentor to this day), Canon & Dani Dagg and Women's Studies Dean- Tanis McBeth Williams - retired; **Teaching** mentors - Principal Bryan Evans, Librarian Joanne Coghill as well as many colleagues whom I admired and worked with for many years. The list is probably thrice this long but those are the highlights that come to mind.

Cath, TeeStuThms and **Hol** who always tells it like it is & puts me in my place, **Heath** who keeps me centered, Inspiring **Aunt Greta**, as well as the rest of my family.

However, the most influential was **Dave Frid**. When **Goose** “flew south” his loss affected a major turning point in my life. **Bobby U's** passing had given me a kick in the a\$\$ to get out and get going, then Goose inspired me to get on with as much of life as one could cram in. Loved that old son of a cuss too much. The surprising sudden death of **Tommy Henderson** during my travels in East Europe only confirmed there was no turning back. He was retiring from teaching because he had “so much else” he wanted “to do and write about”. •

Joined over **300, 000** for the **Anniversary** of the **Landing of the Yacht Granma and Fidel's Cumpleanos** celebration. Took some great movie and stills. **Raul** spoke with 'forte' about the growing strength of **Latin / Central American** countries and **Cuba's** contribution to the world despite **US blockade, World Wide terrorism, aggression and Imperialism**.

A young student spoke incredibly well also, about how proud she and students are of their country's example to the world. She spoke about how it is not easy to live in Cuba with the blockade, but that Cubans have a lot to be thankful for because of the revolution. (understood most of the Spanish though I read better)

Song birds of Canada have arrived to overwinter and musically accompanied my half hour walk to the plaza to watch final 5 a.m. preparations. It was a gorgeous day. Security of course was everywhere. •

CIA - Invisible Government Budget

1964 – 4 billion
1974 – 6.2 billion
1984 – 14 billion
1998 – 22 billion

since 2003 – UNAVAILABLE

The CIA budget is “hidden within the defense department's multi trillion dollar budget – mainly under “Weapons Contracts”. The “Bush Plan” for directing politics in South American countries was presented as 52 million dollars for 2006-07. If this is the disclosed amount, we can imagine it is actually much more. This budget is directed of course at **Cuba**, but as well at **Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua** and now **Brazil** to “steer away from socialism”. A similar budget for directing politics in NAFTA “partner” **Mexico** is separate and undisclosed for “national security reasons” as of 2003. That **1400 km 5 m** wall is going to be costly in cash, friendship and for the environment.

CIA The Invisible Government – Ross and Wise

“A dramatic narrative that may move us towards a fundamental reappraisal of where secret operations fit into a democratic nation.” New York Times B. Bagdikian

“Wise and Ross have pulled aside the curtain of secrecy farther than ever before... there are fresh facts and interpretations of the Bay of Pigs and Cuban missile crisis. Also described in penetrating detail are other CIA sponsored misadventures in Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Viet Nam and elsewhere.” Saturday Review – H. Ransom (I guess we can add **Iraq** now! LR)

“A first rate piece of reporting... reads in many places like a spy novel... It will give most Americans their first good look at a **vastly expensive**, highly important and extremely dangerous sector of government.” •

World According to Bush – CBC - DVD

Grandpa / Dad has a copy of the CBC Passionate Eye's - *The World According to Bush* as well as a new “wilder” documentary by an LA reporter titled *Road to Freedom*.

Mi Papa de Casa – Capt. Raphael Zerquera PhD



- Born: **Trinidad (y Tobago)** • **Amigo de Che y Fidel**
- expelled from Medical school by **Fulgencia Batista** for being - **stupid, poor, disruptive, NEGRA**... reinstated by **Che y Fidel**.
- Revolutionary Army surgeon- 12 years **Angola y Congo**
- Jefe de Modern School of Cuban Medicine. **RETIRED** haha!

Grandma y Grandpa Read Remember “No Truck Nor Trade With YANKEES”

What DID the previous proud **Canadian** generation- **Great Grandma Goring, Tom & Margaret Read, Herb & Em South**, the **McKecknie MacLeods** know and understand about our southern cousin's self centered behemoth behavior that we today have so completely forgotten. **THEY Knew! They invoked No Truck Nor Trade With Yankees? Mulrone**y, enjoined **NAFTA** willingly like a fawning freshman joining a beer swilling Fraternity & we have never reneged on his **idiocy**. Why have WE forgotten **Truck & Trade** history as equally and so totally as our **IDIOT** southern cousins have **Vietnam** now **Vietnam 2 – IRAQ**.

It is my hope that Grandma **Shirl** and Grandpa/ Father **Bill** will read the works of **Che** and poetic prose of **Jose Marti** perhaps even in Spanish before passing on to older age. They both have such an intimate affinity and love for the countries of South and Central America- **Ecuador** and the **Galapagos** seal swims; **Peru** y peaks of **Machu Pichu**; **Mexico**, many ancient pyramids, **Yucatan**, village soccer match refing, snorkeling with seals and manatee, etcetera. Reading these authors may they come to understand why it is time for these countries of the world to throw off the yoke of capitalist imperialism. One by one all of them, followed by **Canada** then all the **G8s**, must consolidate in solidarity to refuse to continue to support or even accept **US** capitalist cyclopean self centered aggressions world wide. At least I hope they read **Che y Marti** to set a family example and perhaps come to peace of mind that after death their grandkids will have a shot at a world of any possible peaceful worth.

Che- Political Writings - Guevara's TV address to the people, **Political Sovereignty and Economic Independence - March 20, 1960**. Part of the People's University televised live every Sunday at 9 starting shortly after the Revolutionary victory. The format was a presentation followed by an open question and answer period- see the discussion for 6 or 8 paragraphs after para 51 . This discussion was the first mention of the evils of **Geopolitics** or modern day **Globalization** & future **USA Terrorism**.(1960) •



“Granma 50th - Raul Castro under the knee of Jose Marti

“**Mandarin**” oranges arrived here for the first time. It was just the one shipment and then it was over. Boy was it special. I ate about five and gave a box to mi familia for Chango. I believe **Jap oranges** followed American's home after WW 2.

I remember how special December or less was. Now they come to Canada for 2 or 3 months from Japan, China and Korea. •

Declaration of Dissolution

If in the course of Canada's history the government, elected at the pleasure, bidding and democratic will of the citizens, ceases to act on behalf of the majority of its citizens; if the duly elected prime-ministers and their cabinets no longer attend efficiently to the basic needs of all its people; if the system of government adapted from that of its birthing nation no longer effects a democracy as originally intended, it is time to abandon that form of government. It is now time for such a **Dissolution** in Canada.

The Prime Ministers and appointed cabinets do not make decisions in the best interest of ALL Canadians in the scope of world events to wit for example: NAFTA and in effect discontinued support for Kyoto.

If during the development of Canada's government it becomes clear that that system has devolved into an unworkable, inefficient, costly and ineffective system it is time to replace that system wholesale to wit for example: the GST exists to this day while the debt clock climbs.

If during the development of Canada any one elite group seizes power on behalf of any one faction of vested interest, it is time to effect a change to destroy that faction's power to wit for example: consumer capitalists, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, international organizations like the Trilateral Commission, the World Economic Forum, and the Bilderberg Group and their advertizing arms continue to promote a deadly way of life for all Canadians based selfishly on gross profits; the tax act remains so incredibly complex allowing tax loopholes for wealthy individuals and corporations costing Canadians billions; regular provincial and federal tax breaks for capitalist corporations based on proven ineffective Reganomic "trickle down" theory.

If in the period of Canada's development any one group takes control of the free press it is time to strengthen laws to terminate control by said group so that access to the media is available to all citizens to wit for example: consolidation of media to the exclusion of the voice of all- CanWest Global Media in effect controls the media of Canada.

If during the development of Canada's government it is so influenced by any foreign government to the point that domestic political decisions are no longer beneficial, right and good for all Canadians and the greater global citizenry it is time to banish that influence outside our borders where it belongs to wit for example: NAFTA; Tar Sands; signing on to an expanded Northern Defence Agreement including "Starwars mini".

If during Canada's development Canadians lose control of ownership of any lands and property within her borders, it is time to regain all those properties for the ownership of Canadian citizens alone to wit for example: Hong Kong, European and Middle Eastern (Saudi) citizens own huge amounts of property in Canada making ownership impossible for many Canadians.

If during Canada's development, government loses control of her resources for the benefit of Canadians it is time to further restrict foreign use and ownership of those resources to wit for example: the Alberta Tar Sands project, influenced heavily by the USA, is an environmental nightmare that must be terminated.

If the system of Government in Canada ceases to act on behalf of the best interest of all Canadians, their future, future generations and what is good for their greater planet, that system must be replaced to wit for example: capitalist privatization of schools, hospitals and medical treatment leading towards a two tier

system; gross lack of post secondary funding for institutions and students; negligent lack of directives in moving towards environmental sustainability; permitting the Alberta Tar Sands project - largest environmental disaster Canada's ever suffered.

(or some such declaration is needed- LR)

My Week in a Nutshell this past three months

Mornings – up at 5 reading / writing

- 7 'til 8:30 yoga two mornings at Madriguera Centre
- school M to Fri 9 'til 12:30 U-Habana

Afternoons:

- café c/ leche HableEspañol hour with students at local's café
 - volunteering with Granma English version
- sharing digital movie techniques at La Madriguera Arts Centre (documentary on Cuban musician **Manau Chau** – finished)
 - preping Biran documentary for January
- Powerpoint with gr. 7 class of ecology teacher Handi Gorie (met him at Lunes club and soccer)

Evenings:

- studying, reading, writing muy muy mucho
 - attending Lunes Club* discussions with young Cubanos
 - cultural events with Glasgow Lindsey and others (symphony, cuban music, theatre, dance, flamenco, ballet, museums, art galleries - very cheap with our student carné)
 - weekend dances- Sabado nites & Domingo 4 - 8 (I'll dance with anyone, many Cubans – but so far no **Cath** yet)
- (* Mon. nights- mostly young Cubans – doctors, artists, organic farmer, belly dancer / law student, lawyers, writers, teachers, (reporter from Paris) and a retired language prof (of 12 idioms)

Ban Deadly Advertizing

Several decades ago Canadians and their government recognized the destructive, costly and deadly effect that **tobacco** had on skyrocketing expenses of our national health care system for disease and cancer treatment. Advertizing **tobacco** was banned.

Several decades ago we recognized that the use of **alcohol** was equally deadly, that the social and health costs for treatment of disease was exorbitant and moved to ban **hard liquor** ads.

Today a far more deadly, costly and destructive form of advertizing continues to exist in Canada. That is- consumer product **advertizing** itself. The continued promotion of consumerism and the consumer lifestyle is causing UV cancer rates to soar. It is resulting in the massive overuse and depletion of petroleum, coal, forests, water and other resources causing the degradation of air, water, and land within Canada and on a global scale. Consumer advertizing is directly responsible for a lifestyle that is wiping out the polar bears, our canary in the coal mine. If Canadian's actually need a product to survive they are quite capable of seeking out which is the best suited to their needs. They do not need to see a seductive, lifestyle choice, car ad every ten minutes of television. It is immoral to continue to allow the advertizing industry to use sophisticated methods and psychology to induce, entice and cause the public to continue the most addictive human behaviour. This is a habit invented in this past century, far more deadly than alcohol, tobacco or any other drug.

Advertizing and this "second hand smoke" behaviour is responsible for massive world wide global village death.

NB The media industry is constantly changing. They'll just have to find another way to stay in business. Oh! and they will.

Cuba es No Muy Limpia!

It always makes me smile when new students to our Spanish class who have not yet traveled outside Habana to Trinidad, Bayamo, Santiago de Cuba or elsewhere say politely, "Cuba es no muy limpia" (not very clean). I generally put forth after each has put in their 2 pesos- "Habana es Habana! Cuba es Cuba! Habana es no Cuba! Cuba es no Habana! Habana es Miami Sud!", then remind them there are far more murders, drugs and homeless in Miami and that 60% of Americans have no medical coverage. •

You Will Each Be Very Happy To Know

After this newsletter, I will no longer strive to convince my family to try to see what all the people are struggling to do here. I no longer care to suggest that much of what criticisms are based on is information from right wing, United States, CIA, and global, international consumer capitalist organizations, who fear and fight socialism of any kind in an attempt to maintain a consumer society. Hopefully all of you will someday read and understand my article *Globalization is Terrorism* and how capitalists deny global frying. Canada will never adopt a system such as Cuba's, but she can learn so very very much from the tiny, more equitable footprint Cubans leave on our planet while we all in Canada trounce with size 13 steel toed, cork boots.

No doubt, you will pass, on reading the book I now recommend: *Cuba – A Revolution in Motion* by **Isaac Saney**, a well respected and tenured Canadian University professor at our most important school of Journalism, **Dalhousie** Halifax NS. You might well condemn it as propaganda although the book is now on many good reading lists for Political Science world wide as a solid seminal work in its area, *Alternate Forms of Government*.

After this newsletter I will no longer strain to implore you to connect your heart and eyes to your brain to understand what is going on with Canada in the world and to become actively involved in trying to convince your friends, associates, politicians and the government of Canada to End NAFTA. If we, my **Read, Hall, MacLeod, Doré, Wang** family cannot see the dire need for this then it will be up to other patriotic activists y Adios Amigos•

Osos Polares Estan Desapareciendo

Los osos polares estan desapareciendo
pronto solo quedarán sus huesos
dispersos por todo la Tierra...
Que fue de su hogar?

Ellos puedan recorrer cien kilómetros-
caminar... nadar... caminar... nadar...
es su costumbre.

Solo caminaban...
en busca de focas,
en busca de comida,
pero, ahora, el hielo se rompe, se fractura fácilmente.

Pobres osos, no lo saben,
su habitat no es como antes,
y la caza se convierte en su muerte.

Los osos polares se han ido.
Subieron, subieron, desaparecieron.
Primero, los dinosaurios... ahora... las osos.

Ç Los tigres serán los proximos? Me pregunto.

Lance Read con Prof. Olympia Ferreiro Molero
(NB translating poetry necessitates changes)

Slave Debate on Hold

Founding father **James Madison**, a great writer, helped **George Washington** craft most of his speeches. **Madison** was an obvious master of the language. As only a great musician with an excellent ear can screw up notes and tunes so terribly as to make them funny the way comedians- violinist **Jack Benny** and pianist **Victor Borga** did, **Madison** used all his word-smith skills in a final speech that excluded any further discussion. Afterwards, though he had said nothing anyone could really understand, everyone was satisfied at being equally sure no one understood what he had said. The slave debate was put at the back of a shelf in a deep dark angry closet for 50 years. **He wrote:**

"If this folly did not reproach the public councils, it ought to excite no regret in the patrons of Humanity & freedom. Nothing could hasten more the progress of these reflections & sentiments which are secretly undermining the institutions with this mistaken zeal laboring to secure against the most distant approach of danger."

Now shake your heads **Grumpa** et al, then read that twice or thrice again. It is beautiful in it's 'confundity'. **LR**

Joseph Ellis the Pulitzer Prize winning writer of *Founding Brothers*, describes this passage so well:

"The convoluted syntax, multiple negatives, indefinite antecedents, and masterful circumlocution of this statement defy comprehension. What begins as a denunciation of those defending slavery somehow doubles back on itself and ends up in worrisome confusion that the matter is being talked about at all. What is meant to sound like an antislavery argument transforms itself in mid-passage into a verbal fog bank that descends over the entire subject like a cloud." (Now that's great writing. **LR**)

Excerpts from *Founding Brothers*, 2000,
Vintage Books, ISBN 0.375.70524.4

Peace on Earth ya'll !

**What the H? When Hades freezes over you say!
Heck- w/ global frying that'll never happen!**

**So does that mean there Will or Won't be
Peace on Earth?**

Only U can make the difference.

End NAFTA Now ...

do your small part to slow global frying!

Best of the Season to All!

TeeStuThms

I was laying reading and happened to look up to ponder. At 1:26 min. into *LOTR Twilight and Shadows* I noticed the iTunes screen change to blues with a dark blue hooded, caped shape... a thin golden "saber" began to sweep in hand upwards past the hooded hidden black face... I'll never see that exact spectral image again... but it was pretty kewl ! •